

June 14, 2006

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
TORRANCE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Parks and Recreation Commission convened in a regular session at 7:08 p.m. on Wednesday, June 14, 2006, in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Cook, Smoot, Taniguchi, Tookey, and Chairperson McGee.

Absent: Commissioner Robbins.

Also Present: Recreation Services Manager Jones,
Park Services Manager Wilson,
Senior Project Leader Orpe, and
Senior Recreation Supervisor Kelso.

MOTION: Commissioner Smoot moved to grant an excused absence to Commissioner Robbins for the June 14, 2006 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. Commissioner Tookey seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

3. FLAG SALUTE

Senior Recreation Supervisor Kelso led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Cook moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Tookey seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES OF MARCH 8, 2006

MOTION: Commissioner Smoot moved for the approval of the March 8, 2006 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Robbins and with Commissioner Taniguchi abstaining).

5B. MINUTES OF MAY 10, 2006

Minutes were not available.

6. OLD BUSINESS

6A. CAPITAL PROJECT OPEN SPACE AND FACILITIES FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

Senior Project Leader Orpe presented the material of record and recommended that the Commission approve the allocation of funding for Open Space and Facilities capital projects under the City's 2007-2011 capital budget. He reported that, following discussion and input from the Parks and Recreation Commission, Priority A projects now include: Park Security Lighting, Torrance Park Redevelopment, Columbia Park Redevelopment, Increase of Playground Equipment Replacement Fund, and Park Bench and Table Replacement Fund. Priority B projects consist of: Pueblo Park, Wilson Park Landscape, El Nido Ball Diamond Lights, Plunge Building Upgrade, Red Car Restoration, and Lago Seco Phase I. He briefly reviewed the projects and their aggregate allocation of funding, noting that 20% of available funding would be held back in reserve, leaving \$930,546 in the Open Space funds and Facilities funds.

In response to Chairperson McGee's inquiry, he reviewed the Playground Equipment Replacement project. He noted that playground equipment was replaced at many parks in the 1990s due to an influx of funding and that playground equipment lasts from 12 to 15 years. He stated that there was a prioritized list, based on age, in the City of Torrance's Capital Budget book.

Park Services Manager Wilson discussed changes in Federal guidelines for playground equipment, noting that some of the existing equipment is no longer supported by the manufacturers. He stated that the increase of the Playground Equipment Replacement Fund will help fund the priority list for replacement and offered to bring the replacement priority list to the August Commission meeting.

Responding to Commissioner Cook's inquiry, Senior Project Leader Orpe explained that the 20% reserve is aggregated and will continue to grow.

MOTION: Commissioner Smoot moved to approve the allocation of Capital Project Open Space and Facilities funding as presented. Commissioner Taniguchi seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Robbins).

7. NEW BUSINESS

7A. SKATEBOARD PARK UPDATE

Senior Recreation Supervisor Kelso provided background and an update on the operation of the Wilson Skateboard Park since the December 2005 Commission meeting. He reported that, following review of two surveys conducted, staff has decided to rebuild the Launch Ramp in the northwest corner and to dismantle the other structure that has been closed.

Responding to Commissioner Smoot's inquiry, he stated that there were 50 responses to the survey.

In response to Commissioner Tookey's inquiry, he indicated that rebuilding of the Launch Ramp would begin in July 2006 and would take Park Services approximately one week to rebuild it once materials are received.

7B. COMMUNITY GARDENS UPDATE

Recreation Services Manager Jones provided an update on the Columbia Community Gardens and Lago Seco Gardens. He discussed garden improvements, the two-year lease agreements and fee structure, community meetings and open house, and required cleaning and key deposits. He stated that the gardeners are very happy with the new program, noting that staff intended to be more vigilant and to keep an open line of communication with the users.

In response to Commissioner Smoot's inquiry, he described the 18-20 rules and regulations in the lease agreement.

He explained to Commissioner Taniguchi that the six handicapped gardens at Lago Seco are above ground level and can be reached by wheelchair from either side of the edge.

Responding to Commissioner Tookey's inquiry, he advised that the gardens have a manual watering system, and that every plot has its own spigot.

7C. DONATION OF MAINTENANCE SERVICES AT COLUMBIA PARK UPDATE

Senior Project Leader Orpe reported that the Community Services Department was contacted by United States of America Ladies Soccer Organization (USALSO) and American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) Region 16 to discuss creating a pilot maintenance program at soccer field 3 at Columbia Park. He stated that, due to the high volume of sports activity, the surface of the field is bumpy and uneven. He advised that the proposal would go to City Council for approval and acceptance of \$18,650 on June 20, 2006.

Responding to Chairperson McGee's inquiry, he noted that the soccer organizations would have the ability to schedule use of the field; however, the Department would maintain the ability to use or lease it when they are not using it. He added that Park Rangers would be enforcing permits and that fencing of the field and signage was being considered.

Commissioner Cook initiated a brief discussion on the gopher problem at the park and plans to install a chemical based deterrent system.

Recreation Services Manager Jones stressed the importance of the teams to change their practice protocol.

7D. ADJOURNMENT TO A JOINT MEETING OF THE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION AND THE LIBRARY COMMISSION, JULY 10, 2006

Recreation Services Manager Jones reported that he received the draft agenda on June 14, 2006.

It was determined that the Parks and Recreation Commission would hold the election of its new officers at the joint meeting.

MOTION: Commissioner Cook moved to adjourn this meeting to a joint meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission and Library Commission on July 10, 2006 in the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library Meeting Room. Commissioner Smoot seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Robbins).

8. STANDING COMMITTEE UPDATES

8A. OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

No report.

8B. FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Recreation Services Manager Jones reported that the Facilities Committee met on June 14, 2006 to plan the July 19, 2006 Parks and Recreation Commission Annual Award Dinner, noting that the theme would be Hawaiian and that award recipients have been selected.

8C. PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

No report.

9. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY

9A. PARK SERVICES DIVISION

No report.

9B. RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION

No report.

9C. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

No report.

10. ORALS

10A. Recreation Services Manager Jones stated that on June 24, 2006 there would be a Summer Kick Off to launch summer programming as well as a presentation on coral reefs at the Madrona Marsh Preserve.

10B. Recreation Services Manager Jones distributed the March-May 2006 Madrona Marsh Preserve In Review and encouraged Commissioners to attend the Fourth of July celebration at Wilson Park.

10C. Commissioner Tookey stated that he was looking forward to the fence coming down at Lago Seco Park.

10D. Commissioner Cook invited Commissioners to attend the L.A. Watts games this weekend.

10E. Commissioner Taniguchi wished Parks and Recreation Director Barnett a speedy recovery.

10F. Commissioner Smoot mentioned that she saw former Administrative Analyst Witzansky in Arizona.

10G. Chairperson McGee stated that he enjoyed attending the Beat the Odds banquet and congratulated the scholarship recipients.

11. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:12 p.m., Chairperson McGee adjourned the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting to July 10, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at the Katy Geissert Library Meeting Room.

The next regular Parks and Recreation Commission meeting will be held on August 9, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Meeting Room.

Approved as Submitted August 9, 2006 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
